

NEWS



Upcoming Events

Alumni & Joint Events

- 16 May 2013
25th Anniversary Organ Festival
- 25 June 2013
London Alumni Social
- 16 July 2013
Chick-fil-A Leadercast
- 31 October 2013
NMMU Alumni Awards
- 15 November 2013
Alumni Executive Breakfast

Alumni Exec Meetings

- 21 May 2013 Alumni AGM
- 01 August 2013
- 07 November 2013

NMMU Trust Legacy Events

- 20 May 2013
Donor Luncheon
- 21 May 2013
PE Golf Day
- 26 July 2013 1965
Intake Reunion
- 05 September 2013
Women in Technology Cocktail
- 04 October 2013
- Hostels: Unitas & Veritas Reunion

Open Day

- 17-18 May - George

Elections for new Alumni Executive Committee

New Alumni Association



NEW ASSOCIATION ... In this picture the former President of Convocation and current Director of Alumni Relations, Paul Geswindt, NMMU Registrar Hugo Grimbeek and President of the Alumni Association Randall Jonas.

LAST year Convocation and the Alumni Association merged and a new constitution for the Alumni Association was adopted.

Council ratified the new Constitution and changes were made to the Statute of the University.

These amendments to the Statute were recently gazetted after approval by the Minister of Higher Education and Training.

This ushers in a new era of Alumni Relations at NMMU. The Constitution is available on the alumni website at <http://alumni.nmmu.co.za>.

This year's annual general meeting will include a social gathering and an election of the Executive Committee.

Members of the Alumni Association are invited to elect Office bearers and members of the Alumni Association Executive Committee.

The AGM will take place at the North Campus Conference Centre on 21 May 2013.



National NMMU alumni social success

FOUR successful alumni socials have been held in Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Johannesburg and East London over the past few months.

Over 300 alumni and friends gathered at the various cocktail evenings. The PE Alumni Chapter social was held at Madibaz Café at NMMU South Campus with close to 120 alumni and friends attending.

The Cape Town Cocktail was held at The Pavilion Conference Centre in Cape Town with over 50 alumni attending.

Country Club Johannesburg was host for the Johannesburg Alumni Chapter social with over 70 people in attendance.

50 alumni and friends also attended the East London Alumni Chapter social which was held at the East London Golf club.

The aim of the events were to introduce the "alumni bench project" as well as the "Alumni House project."

The Alumni bench project encourages alumni to get involved by sponsoring a bench on any of NMMU's six campuses.

Sponsorship of existing benches will go towards the NMMU Vision 2020 Endowment and Capital Campaign which is about ensuring continued academic excellence, creating modern infrastructure to support the cutting edge academic work and having the right staff and students to take NMMU to even greater heights.

An Alumni House is more than just an administrative building but a symbol of connectedness with alumni and their lifelong relationship with the University.

The building must symbolise the past, present and future. Alumni are encouraged to get involved with existing alumni projects and leave a legacy every alumnus can be proud of.



NETWORKING ... Some of the alumni and friends who attended the PE Chapter Jazz and Cocktail evening were Felix Musukubili (from left), Nazley Camish, Kagiso Lekang and Mandy Marinus. At this event the Alumni Bench and Alumni House project was promoted.



GET-TOGETHER ... Nande Nandoz Suka and Daisy Kitso Kotsedi were among the 50 alumni and friends who attended the recent East London Alumni social.



Lisca Hendricks

Alumni Relations Directorate Connect & stay in touch...

Tel: 041 504 3935 (f) 041 504 1417
Email: alumni@nmmu.ac.za
Website: <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NMMU-Alumni-incl-ex-PE-Technikon-ex-UPE-old-students/104106786333440>

University Shop @ Sanlam Student Village

Tel: 041 504 4371 (f) 041 5041851
Email: shop@nmmu.ac.za
Website: www.nmmu.ac.za/shop
Missionvale University Shop
Tel: 041 504 1369
Email: shopmv@nmmu.ac.za



Baakier Abrahams

Chemistry alumnus excels

MTECH NMMU graduate Saadia Chapple, has excelled in her field, working herself up the ranks to the head of group laboratory services for Adcock, a well-known South African pharmaceutical company.

Chapple, who decided to leave her employment and take on her studies full-time, says that it was the best decision she could have made for herself and career.

"It allowed me to focus on my studies. I completed my MTech in chemistry with three distinctions and was very honoured to have Professor Loyson as my promoter," she said.

She has more than 25 years' experience in the QC environment of pharmaceutical laboratories and spans from being a laboratory technician to managing and starting up pharmaceutical laboratories for a well-known pharmaceutical company.

Chapple started her very own consulting company in 2009 and spent three years supporting different pharmaceutical companies with service in the quality environment.

"I am currently assisting another well-known company by setting up a brand new state-of-the-art quality control laboratory."

Chapple finds that if one is focused on your goal then all the pressures associated with studying are bearable. "I never felt like giving up because I knew what my goals were," she said.

She enjoys working in the good manufacturing practice pharmaceutical environment especially because she focuses on coaching and the mentorship of staff.

"My experience and achievements in the industry have given me the confidence to make a difference in this position."

Mother of five, Chapple says all her daughters have completed their studies and are working and their son is cur-



EXCELLING ... Saadia Chapple, MTech Chemistry graduate is currently the head of group laboratory services for Adcock, a well-known pharmaceutical company.

rently enrolled in the BCom field at NMMU. "My husband also completed his MTech in Chemistry at NMMU."

Asked what her most memorable experience at varsity was she said, "Definitely all my graduations."

Chapple's advice to other students: "It is important to know what you want to do after you have completed your studies. It has to fit in with your lifestyle, personality and it has to be fun."



News Briefs

Alumnus new Protea Coach

SPORT management graduate and former Warriors coach, Russell Domingo, has been appointed as the new South African cricket coach from August this year replacing Gary Kirsten.

Domingo's appointment was announced less than 24 hours after Kirsten opted out of renewing his contract for another two years. The former Chapman High School pupil said "It's not all love and fresh air - there is a lot of work to be done, and it's only the start. It's a challenging period in my career."

CA graduate new CEO

BCOM (Hons) NMMU graduate, Andrew Hannington, has been appointed chief executive officer of Grant Thornton auditing firm after playing a pivotal role in a two-month merger between the company and multidisciplinary professional services firm PFK.

The merger will move the second-tier Grant Thornton a step closer to its aim of playing in the same league as the "Big Four" in SA after Ernst & Young, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Deloitte and KPMG.

Lecturer creates aircraft

A lifelong passion for aviation and inventing has paid off for NMMU lecturer and MDip Tech (Mechanical Engineering) graduate, Russell Phillips, with his creation of a light aircraft gracing the cover of popular aviation magazine SA Flyer last month.

The Whisper X is the second aircraft that mechanical engineering lecturer has designed and built.

Phillips also has several noteworthy inventions in the renewable energy field.

NMMU Graduates code to success

DEDICATION and hard work paired with a great tertiary education has paid off for these successful businessmen, owners of Port Elizabeth software and web development company, The Code Group.

The duo, Devereaux Joubert and Mohamed Cassim's journey started in the classroom where they became friends during their first year at varsity in 2005.

Teaming up in third-year for a project saw the pair represented Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University at the Microsoft Imagine Cup Competition winning the competition in 2007. They also placed 3rd with their honours project in 2009.

Microsoft representative, David Ives, aware of the pairs work done in 2007 when they won the competition, decided to sponsor their Microsoft partnership which resulted in the birth of The Code Group.

Operating from a small office in Pickering Street, the very first commercial software system they produced was for a private hospital clinic.

"The Code Group then designed various websites for local businesses, and most notably in our first year created a Touch Screen Squash System for the Sports Centre at NMMU," says Joubert.

After this year, an internship opportunity became available to a BSc student from NMMU, who then became the first full time employee within the business in 2011.

"The staff increase necessitated a move to new offices in Mangold Street, with a large number of systems and applications that were being developed, we employed two more NMMU graduates that started full time in May 2011," he said.

Business boomed when the company started a complete redesign and development of a secure payment portal for establishments in the accommodation / tourism industry through Boomsure.com, which has showed a positive growth in the business and their position in the market. 2011 also included developing a human resources intranet portal for the



THE CODE GROUP TEAM ... Employees of The Code Group, software and web development company are Anele Attwell (back from left), Kolisa Mjobo, Craig Van Niekerk, Reza Savahl, Jason Welsford, Bilal Emamboccus (front from left), Devereaux Joubert, Mohamed Cassim and Jonathan Dixon. Only one member of the staff component is not an NMMU graduate.

mining industry. "In 2012 The Code Group grew even further with another two staff members, one of whom was also an NMMU graduate," says Joubert.



This saw the company move to their own premises in Pickering Street in Newton Park and its client base has now extended overseas including joint venture development and outsourced IT development.

In 2013 the staff increased with two more NMMU graduates and are currently in development with a Property Management System for property managers, estate agents and for private individuals associated with rentals and leases.

Over the past year the company has been quite busy with the development of

interesting systems including an energy management system for a UK client, a singing and judging competition system with a mobile site for voting for the contestants, a racing timing system for motorcycle, endure races, off-road and mountain bike races (which 17 racing clubs are using country-wide), cross platform survey systems for Blackberry, Android and iPhones as well as various other projects for NMMU.

"We, The Code Group, deliver innovative, creative and functional products and our specialty is custom business and administration systems. Our successful background in computer science coupled with our knowledge of accounting and auditing enable us to produce business systems of the highest standards," Joubert said.

He acknowledges NMMU in their success. "Much of our progress is due to the high standard of graduates that NMMU has produced that make our team so successful. "Without a doubt I will recommend anyone to study at NMMU, especially in the Computing Science field, the support and education that students receives in invaluable," he said.

Graduate lands top position

CONGRATULATIONS ... Senior Lecturer in the Building and Human Settlement Development Department, Dr Franco Geminiani (from left) congratulates Asithandile Rangile, who was recently appointed as a Property Graduate in Industrial Development for Investec Bank Limited.



A graduate of the Department of Building and Human Settlement Development (BHSD), Asithandile Rangile was recently appointed as a Property Graduate in Industrial Development with Investec Bank Limited, based at the Head Office in Sandton.

His appointment involves undertaking feasibility studies, and the development of multi-million rand forthcoming projects in South Africa.

Rangile completed a BTech Quantity Surveying (QS) qualification in 2011 and a BTech Construction Management (CM) in 2012 respectively.

Rangile, underwent strenuous panel interviews with the managing director of the group, and the final interview with the global CEO of Investec Property.

According to Rangile, both the qualifications obtained at NMMU have given him the edge over graduates traditionally employed in the past from renowned universities such as Wits and UCT.

Rangile is full of praise of NMMU, the BHSD department and the lecturers involved in the programme presented, further stating that the knowledge he obtained was essential to understand what really happens in the corporate world.

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Graduate represents SA

BCOM graduate, Port Elizabeth model and managing director of IT firm Little Big Technologies, William Heydenrych has been selected to represent South Africa at the 2013 Manhunt International contest in China recently.

Heydenrych, who was a finalist in the Mr SA competition last year, competed against delegates from more than 50 countries in the hope of becoming South Africa's second winner at this leading male pageant.

Alumnus "Zambezia" success

BTECH Fine Art graduate, Stuart Forest, CEO and film producer of Triggerfish in Cape Town recently released "Adventures in Zambezia," the first animated feature film produced by the country's biggest animation studio, has been sold to 26 distributors worldwide. This makes it the most widely distributed film titles yet to come out of Africa.

The film, voiced by leading American actors including Samuel L Jackson and Abigail Breslin, "Adventures in Zambezia" has also been nominated for two Annie Awards, the most prestigious awards in the animation industry and has been shortlisted for an Oscar nomination. It has also won Best South African Feature Film at the Durban Film Festival in 2012 and has reached number two at the box office in Russia.

First International Representatives

FORESTRY BTech graduate Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo made history as one of the first two students from Africa elected to serve on the Board of the General Assembly of International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) held in Istanbul at the end of last year.

In addition, MTech student Hannes van Zyl was re-elected to serve for a second term as the IFSA representative for the Southern African Region, with Director of the School of Natural Resource Management School Director Prof Jos Louw, elected to the General Assembly as Honorary member from South Africa for his outstanding contribution to the Forestry Industry outside IFSA.

Upcoming Student Alumni Society Events

- 29 May - Missionvale Lunchtime Event
- 14 August - Social
- 11 September - Graduate Attributes
- 09 October - Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- 23 October - End of Year Function with a Difference



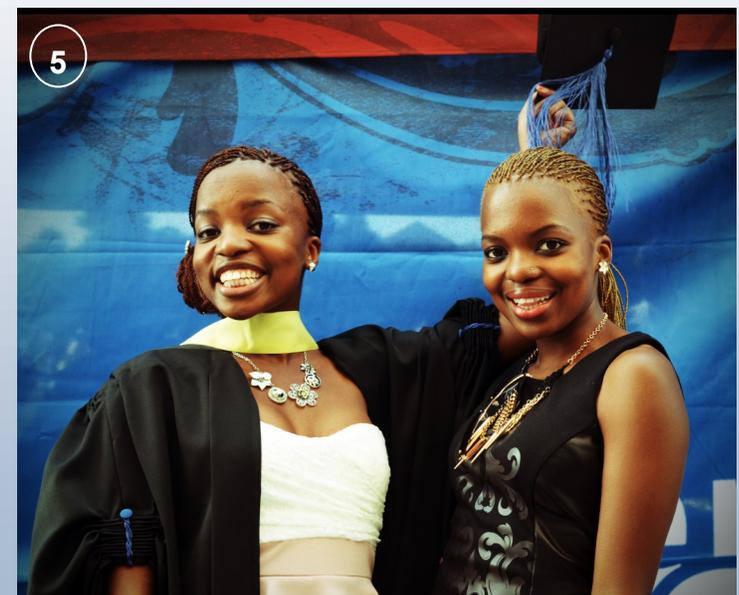
GETTING TOGETHER ... More than 50 alumni and friends attended the alumni social in East London recently. Among those who attended the event were Sandisiwe Mancoko and Zintle Tshem (pic 1), Queen and Mbulelo Zenani (pic 2), Nonie Matshabane (from left), Sarah Peter and Carlos da Fonseca (pic 3) and Mawande Msudane and Thembalihle Sipika (pic 4).



OPENING ... The official opening of the ArtShop on Missionvale Campus took place recently bringing about a unique collaboration between NMMU Alumni Relations Directorate, Department of Arts and Culture and the Missionvale Campus which showcases the creative works of NMMU staff, students and alumni. In this picture Alumni Association Vice President Evert Knoesen, Missionvale Campus Director Dr Phakama Ntshongwana and Senior Manager: Arts & Culture Michael Barry.



FAMILY TIES ... This year nearly 6000 certificates were awarded to NMMU graduates. Among the many graduates: sisters, husbands and wives, fathers and sons and mothers and daughters all walked across the stage with pride sharing their special days with each other. Long hours, hard work and determination paid off as they got to share their special day with their loved ones. Husband and wife, Michael and Athena Bouwer (pic 1), mother and daughter Safieyah Ismail and Camila Ismail (pic 2), siblings Deshika and Shamalin Chetty (pic 3), father and son Michael and Mikale Barry (pic 4) and Nthabiseng Makhoba who shared her graduation with her twin sister Thabile (pic 5).





CAPE TOWN SUCCESS ... Corina Becker (from left), Lynn Edwards and Stanley Edwards OGLE Media and Alumwine founder attended the Cape Town social.



WINES GALORE ... Marinthea Snyman (from left) and Anthony Rodinis from Wines with Heart attended the Cape Town social that was held at The Pavilion Conference Centre recently.

ALUMNI GROUP ... Alumni and friends who attended the alumni social in Cape Town recently were Martin van Tonder (front from left), Marinthea Snyman, Prof Jean Greyling, Ingrid Rathbone, Alla Boguslavsky, Bevani Chetty, Jared Leonard (middle row from left), Brendan van Zyl, Tony Simpson, Marco Pretorius, Prof Andre' Calitz, Cesare Castignani, Juan Meyer, Ryan Gow, Ryan Hill, Cornel Ferreira (back row from left), Eugene Coetzee, Heinrich Havemann, Russel Kingwill, Bradley van Tonder and Eduard van Wyk.



NETWORKING ... NMMU Alumni Student Society executive members along with its members attended the annual networking function held at Madibaz recently. The aim of the event was to create awareness of the Student Alumni Society and the projects that they are involved in. Of those who attended were Curwyn Mapaling (SAS Chairperson), Angelique Burjins, Hashali Hamukuaya, Farryn Japhta, Welcome Kupangwa (SAS Project Manager), Lyalle Windvogel, Azharuddin Mohamed (SAS Vice Chairperson), Lushay Pedro, Simeon Van Jaarsveld (SAS Public Relations Officer) and Vusa Chimanihire.



HOSTING ... The Department of Education (PE District) and NMMU's Alumni Relations Directorate hosted a follow-up workshop for high schools on how to set up Past Pupil Associations, hosting the workshop, Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt, Michelle Mbaco from the DoE and even participant Ivan Martin.



WORKSHOP ATTENDEES ... Present at the Past Pupil workshop were Collegiate School's, Pat Bransby and Grey High School's, Ian Pringle, which was held in February at NMMU's Missionvale Campus.



SOCIAL SUCCESS ... The Annual Alumni PE Chapter Cocktail and Jazz Social was held recently at Madibaz Cafe on NMMU South Campus. The event was well-attended with close to 120 alumni and friends enjoying the social. Some of the attendees were PE Chapter Chairperson Adv Shuaib Rahim, Former Student Alumni Society Chairpersons Thomas Terblanche (2012), Sonnetta Human (2011) and Alumni Association Vice President Evert Knoesen (photo 1), Gerard and Rashida Cain (photo 2) and Yanga Fadana (from left), Siyasanga Loleka, Otto Tamela & Olona Tamela.

